

In the claims:

1.(currently amended) A method for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source, comprising ~~the following steps:~~

constructing a plurality of bit-planes using the bit symbols generated by the data source, each bit-plane comprising a plurality of bit-plane symbols;

scanning the bit-plane symbols of each bit-plane to generate a binary string of bit-plane symbols;

encoding the binary string of the bit-plane symbols using a statistical model, wherein the statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the data source, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{|x|}{\sigma}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

2.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the encoding of the binary string of bit-plane symbols is performed by an entropy encoder.

3.(previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein an arithmetic encoder is used as the entropy encoder.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a probability assignment to each bit-plane symbol is determined based on the Laplacian probability distribution function and is used to determine the statistical model for encoding the binary string of bit-plane symbols.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol is based on ...determined by

$$P_j = 1 - \left( 1 + e^{-2^j \sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}} \right)^{-1} \quad , \quad j = M-1, M-2, \dots$$

wherein

$P_j$  is the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a probability assignment to each bit-plane symbol is determined based on previously encoded bit-plane symbols.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol is determined by

$$P_j = \frac{N_a}{N} P_j^{N_a} + \left( 1 - \frac{N_a}{N} \right) P_j^{ML}$$

wherein

$P_j$  is the probability assignment to the current bit-plane symbol,

$j$  is the bit-plane,

$N_a$  is the number of bit-plane symbols coded until the end of the previous bit-plane,

$N$  is the number of bit-plane symbols coded until the current bit-plane symbol,

$P_j^{N_a}$  is the estimation of  $P_j$  after observing  $N_a$  bit-plane symbols,

$P_j^{ML}$  is the maximum likelihood estimation of  $P_j$  for the current bit-plane and is defined by

$$P_j^{ML} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N-N_a} b_{i,j}}{N - N_a}$$

wherein  $b_{i,j}$  is the bit-plane symbol.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the estimation of  $P_j$  after observing  $N_a$  bit-plane symbols,  $P_j^{N_a}$ , is updated by

$$P_j^{N_a} = \frac{\sqrt{P_{j+1}^{N_a}}}{\sqrt{1 - P_{j+1}^{N_a}} + \sqrt{P_{j+1}^{N_a}}}$$

wherein  $P_{j+1}^{N_a}$  is the estimation of  $P_j$  from the previous bit-plane.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 4, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane is determined by

$$Q_j^L = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+2^{2^{j-L}}}, & j \geq L \\ \frac{1}{2}, & j < L \end{cases}$$

wherein

$Q_j^L$  is the probability assignment of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  bit-plane,

$L$  is the integer representing a predetermined optimal bit-plane from the plurality of constructed bit-planes, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 4, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane is determined by

$$Q_j^L = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2^{2^{j-L}}}, & j \geq L \\ \frac{1}{2}, & j < L \end{cases}$$

wherein

$Q_j^L$  is the probability assignment of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  bit-plane,

$L$  is the integer representing a predetermined optimal bit-plane from the plurality of constructed bit-planes, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claims 5 or 7, further for decoding an encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols comprising the following steps:

decoding the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols using a further statistical model to generate a further binary string of bit-plane symbols,

re-constructing a plurality of bit-planes comprising the bit-plane symbols using the further binary string of bit-plane symbols, producing a decoded data, wherein the further statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the bit plane symbols of the reconstructed bit plane the decoded data, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-|x|\sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (original) A device for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source, comprising:

a bit-plane construction unit for constructing a plurality of bit-planes from the data source, each bit-plane comprising a plurality of bit-plane symbols, and scanning the bit-plane symbols of each bit-plane to generate a binary string of bit-plane symbols,

a statistical model unit for providing statistical information based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the data source, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-|x|\sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function and

an encoding unit for encoding the binary string of bit-plane symbols based on the statistical information provided by the statistical model unit.

18. (original) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, wherein the program is to make the computer execute a procedure for processing bit symbols by a data source, comprising the following steps:

constructing a plurality of bit-planes using the bit symbols generated by the data source, each bit-plane comprising a plurality of bit-plane symbols;

scanning the bit-plane symbols of each bit-plane to generate a binary string of bit-plane symbols;

encoding the binary string of the bit-plane symbols using a statistical model, wherein the statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the data source, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

19. (original) A computer program element which is to make the computer execute a procedure for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, comprising the following steps:

constructing a plurality of bit-planes using the bit symbols generated by the data source, each bit-plane comprising a plurality of bit-plane symbols;

scanning the bit-plane symbols of each bit-plane to generate a binary string of bit-plane symbols;

encoding the binary string of the bit-plane symbols using a statistical model, wherein the statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the data source, wherein the data source has a form of a Laplacian probability distribution function, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-|x|\sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

20. (new) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11 or 12, further comprising ~~the following steps~~:

determining an optimal bit-plane from the plurality of constructed bit-planes;

determining a probability assignment to each bit-plane based on its relation to the optimal bit-plane;

wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane is used as the statistical model for encoding the binary string of bit-plane symbols.

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the optimal bit-plane is determined by determining an integer which best satisfies

$$\phi^{2^{-L+1}} \leq \theta < \phi^{2^{-L}}$$

wherein

~~L is the integer representing the optimal bit-plane,~~

$\phi$  is defined by  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}\right)$ ,

$\theta$  is defined as

$$\theta \stackrel{\Delta}{=} e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}}.$$

22. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the decoding of the binary string of bit-plane symbols is performed by an entropy decoder.

23. (new) The method according to claim 22, wherein an arithmetic decoder is used as the entropy decoder.

24. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein a probability assignment to each bit-plane symbol is determined based on the Laplacian probability distribution function and is used to determine the further statistical model for decoding the binary string of bit-plane symbols.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol is determined by

$$P_j = 1 - \left( 1 + e^{-2^j \sqrt{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}} \right)^{-1} \quad , \quad j = M-1, M-2, \dots$$

wherein

$P_j$  is the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

26. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein a probability assignment to each bit-plane symbol is determined based on previously decoded bit-plane symbols.

27. (new) The method according to claim 26, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane symbol is determined by

$$P_j = \frac{N_a}{N} P_j^{N_a} + \left(1 - \frac{N_a}{N}\right) P_j^{ML}$$

wherein

$P_j$  is the probability assignment to the current bit-plane symbol,

$j$  is the bit-plane,

$N_a$  is the number of bit-plane symbols coded until the end of the previous bit-plane,

$N$  is the number of bit-plane symbols decoded until the current bit-plane symbol,

$P_j^{N_a}$  is the estimation of  $P_j$  after observing  $N_a$  bit-plane symbols,

$P_j^{ML}$  is the maximum likelihood estimation of  $P_j$  for the current bit-plane and is defined by

$$P_j^{ML} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N-N_a} b_{i,j}}{N - N_a}$$

wherein  $b_{i,j}$  is the bit-plane symbol.

28. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein the estimation of  $P_j$  after observing  $N_a$  bit-plane symbols,  $P_j^{N_a}$ , is updated by

$$P_j^{N_a} = \frac{\sqrt{P_{j+1}^{N_a}}}{\sqrt{1 - P_{j+1}^{N_a}} + \sqrt{P_{j+1}^{N_a}}}$$

wherein  $P_{j+1}^{N_a}$  is the estimation of  $P_j$  from the previous bit-plane.

29. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane is determined by

$$Q_j^L = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+2^{2^{j-L}}}, & j \geq L \\ \frac{1}{2}, & j < L \end{cases}$$

wherein

$Q_j^L$  is the probability assignment of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  bit-plane,

$L$  is the integer representing a predetermined optimal bit-plane from the plurality of constructed bit-planes, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

30. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein the probability assignment to the bit-plane is determined by

$$Q_j^L = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2^{2^{j-L}}}, & j \geq L \\ \frac{1}{2}, & j < L \end{cases}$$

wherein

$Q_j^L$  is the probability assignment of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  bit-plane,

$L$  is the integer representing a predetermined optimal bit-plane from the plurality of constructed bit-planes, and

$j$  is the bit-plane.

31.(new) The method according to claim 25 or 27, wherein the data source is re-constructed from the bit-planes by

$$\hat{x}_i = (2s_i - 1) \left( \sum_{j=M-1}^T b_{i,j} 2^j + \sum_{j=T-1}^{\infty} P_j 2^j \right),$$

wherein

$\hat{x}_i$  is the re-constructed data source,

$s_i$  is a sign symbol of  $\hat{x}_i$ ,

$b_{i,j}$  is the bit-plane symbol, and

$T$  is the bit-plane the decoded binary string of bit-plane symbols is terminated.

32.(new) The method according to claim 29 or 30, wherein the data source is re-constructed from the bit-planes by

$$\hat{x}_i = (2s_i - 1) \left( \sum_{j=M-1}^T b_{i,j} 2^j + \sum_{j=T-1}^{\infty} Q_j^L 2^j \right)$$

wherein

$\hat{x}_i$  is the re-constructed data source,

$s_i$  is a sign symbol of  $\hat{x}_i$ ,

$b_{i,j}$  is the bit-plane symbol, and

$T$  is the bit-plane the decoded binary string of bit-plane symbols is terminated.

33. (new) A device for decoding an encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols comprising:

a decoding unit for decoding the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols using a further statistical model to generate a further binary string of bit-plane symbols,

a re-constructing unit for re-constructing a plurality of bit-planes comprising the bit-plane symbols using the further binary string of bit-plane symbols, and

a further statistical model unit for providing the further statistical model, wherein the further statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the decoded data, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

34. (new) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, wherein the program is to make the computer execute a procedure for decoding an encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols comprising the following steps:

decoding the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols using a further statistical model to generate a further binary string of bit-plane symbols,

re-constructing a plurality of bit-planes comprising the bit-plane symbols using the further binary string of bit-plane symbols, wherein the further statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the decoded data, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.

35. (new) A computer program element which is to make the computer execute a procedure for decoding an encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols comprising the following steps:

decoding the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols using a further statistical model to generate a further binary string of bit-plane symbols,

re-constructing a plurality of bit-planes comprising the bit-plane symbols using the further binary string of bit-plane symbols, wherein the further statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the decoded data, wherein the Laplacian probability distribution function is defined by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{\sigma^2}}}}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}$$

wherein  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the Laplacian probability distribution function.